



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

VOL. XV
No. 37

OCT. 11, 1993

S.F. CITY ATTORNEY's RACE: RENNE VS. EISENBERG

Longtime Demo Party activist/attorney Neil Eisenberg is going up against the political establishment in San Francisco in an effort to oust incumbent City Attorney Louise Renne in this city/county's regularly scheduled election on Nov. 2nd --- the same day as the statewide special...

...While many contests pit candidates against one another who have different ideological views, this battle for city attorney is what several S.F. sources say is a fight to settle old scores and perhaps is an attempt to beat up on Renne enough to damage her should she even think about running for mayor of S.F. in 1995...

...In terms of old scores, at least two S.F. politicians have it in for Renne: S.F. Co. DA Arlo Smith and State Sen. Quentin Kopp. Many sources think that Kopp is the main force behind Eisenberg, but that may be a mistaken impression. Yes, Renne did back Dianne Feinstein over Kopp for mayor way back when, but more recently (for those who have forgotten), Renne went out of her way to endorse former L.A. Co. DA Ira Reiner over Smith, when the two fought for the Demo Party nomination for AG in 1990. Smith won the primary, but then lost to current AG Dan Lungren in the general election. Again, for those with short memories, Eisenberg was Smith's campaign attorney in 1990 and remains close to the DA...

...So who is ahead? If you look at money and endorsements, Renne should win without much trouble. She has raised about \$167,000 compared to \$27,000 for Eisenberg (\$16,000 of this was a personal loan). Renne also has won most of the endorsements from the influential Demo clubs, as well as endorsements from the likes of Speaker Willie Brown, Assemblyman John Burton, U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senators Feinstein and Boxer --- and the endorsement of three former S.F.

mayors, Art Agnos, Joe Alioto & George Christopher. About the only person who has not endorsed Renne is Orange Co. Demo Assemblyman Tom Umberg, Smith's major rival for the AG's nomination in 1994. Mayor Frank Jordan is neutral...

...In Eisenberg's corner are Kopp, Smith and the S.F. POA --- not bad for a candidate running for a law enforcement post. Eisenberg has been peppering Renne to take the pledge -- "I will not run for mayor in 1995." So far no luck and Eisenberg is predicting that if she's reelected, Renne will run for mayor. One thing CALPEEK will say about Neil: he's pretty good at making predictions. Remember back in 1989 when he ran against Jerry Brown for chair of the CA Demo Party? It was Eisenberg who correctly predicted that Jerry would not serve out his term and instead would use the CDP chairmanship as a launching pad for higher office. Stay tuned...

WITH CA'S 1994 ELECTION A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR AWAY, WILSON ENTERS CAMPAIGN MODE.

Editor's note: There's no doubt that the 1994 battle for governor is now officially on. This past week Gov. Pete Wilson was all over the place --- signing important legislation, blasting a potential Demo rival and finally taking a stand **against** Prop. 174 on the Nov. 2nd special election ballot. Here's our report & analysis...

...Politically, the week of Oct. 4th was an important week for Pete Wilson. Some 138 days after calling a Nov. 2nd special election and "studying" the pros and cons of Prop. 174, the school voucher initiative, the governor finally said he was opposed because this measure had the potential to drain upwards of \$1.6 billion from the State Treasury. The signs were there in past weeks that he might oppose 174, but his outright opposition made front page headlines on Oct. 6th...

{Continued Next Page}

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK (ISSN 0195-6175) IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (310) 659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. \$90.00/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHT BY CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SEC. OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

...Wilson's stand will *not* endear him to conservative Republicans, who overwhelmingly support 174. And make no mistake, Wilson needs conservative support if he is to win reelection next year. Although some 174 supporters may dispute this, Wilson's announced opposition is considered a **major setback**, because it was hoped that if he had come out in support, then Wilson contributors would have given much needed funds to the campaign. That won't happen now...

...What else happened this past week? On Oct. 4th, Wilson signed 4 bills dealing with illegal immigrants. At this signing ceremony, Wilson ripped into Demo State Treasurer Kathleen Brown on the issue of illegal immigrants, saying she was "uninformed" and "out of touch" on this subject. Again, this attack got lots of ink around the State --- mostly positive for Wilson. A week earlier, Brown had given a major policy speech on illegals, where she said that jobs, and not free education and health benefits, were the main reason CA had such a staggering problem with illegals. The attraction of CA for illegals is really a combination of both and Wilson's harsh criticism of Brown seem to place the treasurer in an uncomfortable position...

...But if Wilson is to rebound completely and to win in 1994, he's got to **get lucky**. Most CALPEEK sources agree that Californians will again see a monster budget crisis next year, despite all the good work done by the governor and legislature this past year. That's not good news for Wilson. And unless the over-all State economy starts to mend, which seems unlikely, the jobs picture doesn't look good either. It's not all Wilson's fault, but this has happened on his watch...

...In addition to everything else, the governor's political fortunes are on the line with regard to Prop. 172 - the 1/2 cent sales tax extension for public safety. If 172 goes down to defeat Nov. 2nd, Wilson will have his hands full trying to cope with local law & public safety officials screaming for help. Like we said, Wilson needs to get lucky...

...FYI: Some new survey numbers by pollster Gary Lawrence of Lawrence Research in Orange Co. taken in late September (800 sample size) shows that Wilson is still in trouble with voters. On name ID impressions, 12% have a *strongly* favorable impression of Wilson; 33% have a *somewhat* favorable impression; 20% have

a *somewhat* unfavorable impression; 25% have a *strongly* unfavorable impression; and 10% had no opinion or had not heard of Gov. Wilson. The governor has 98% general name ID and 90% hard name ID. Bottomline: the intensity factor (those who feel strongly) is about 2-1 *against* Wilson at this point, according to Lawrence's survey. Stay tuned...

FIELD POLL LOOKS AT RELIGION & CA POLITICS.

Editor's note: In one of their more interesting surveys in a long time, the Field Institute (The Field Poll) has surveyed the *relationship* between the public's religious beliefs and their political views. This particular Field survey is a combination of two separate interview periods, one in May (994 respondents) and another in August (1,045 respondents). Here is our report...

...After all the data was put together, the Field Poll found three(3) "separate & distinct" segments among the State's public: the religious right; religious moderates; and what the Field Poll calls "secularists." The definitions of each group are self-explanatory. The Field Poll then overlaid political responses onto the religious information...

...According to the data, 21% of all CA adults are part of the **religious right**, while 25% fall into the **religious moderate** category. The largest group, 54%, are **secularists** - from all parts of the political spectrum, but mostly from the middle and the political left...

...As for *political party affiliation*, among all Calif. voters, 47% consider themselves to be Demos, 40% say they are GOPers and 13% other or neither. But when you break party affiliation down using Field's methodology, you get some interesting numbers. Among the religious right, 28% say they are Demos, 64% claim to be Republicans and 8% other or neither. Among the religious moderates, 48% claim to be Demos, 31% GOPers and 21% other or neither. And finally, among the secularists, 55% say they are Demos, 34% Republicans and 11% other or neither...

...The Field Poll also studied the 1992 presidential election in Calif. Among the religious right, 63% voted for George Bush, while 21% were for Bill Clinton, and 16% were for Ross Perot. But a very large number of moderates (49%) and secularists (57%) sided with Clinton...

...There is a wide gap between the religious right and the secularists on a whole range of social issues, as one might expect. For example, on homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle, 68% of the religious right say no way, while 63% of the secularists say there's no problem...

...Was there anything in the poll that all three groups of respondents agreed about? YES, the death penalty. 80% of the religious right, 76% of the moderates and 77% of the secularists favor the death penalty...

...Finally, the Field Poll blended politics and religious beliefs on Prop. 174, the school voucher initiative on the Nov. 2nd ballot. Broken down into the three(3) religious groups, the outcome is somewhat surprising. Among the religious right, 44% approve to 43% opposed and 13% no opinion. Among moderates, 42% oppose, while 39% approve and 19% have no opinion. And among the secularists, 49% oppose, 33% favor and 18% have no opinion. Stay tuned...

1994 UPDATE: HOUSE & STATE SENATE PREVIEW.

Editor's note: Last week CALPEEK concentrated on the CA State Assembly, listing 21 members that we suspect might not return to the lower legislative house. This week CALPEEK looks at the U.S. House of Representatives and the CA State Senate...

- **U.S. House** - This is a fairly short report, because as far as we can determine, there are only two members who are "voluntarily" leaving office in 1994: Chris Cox of Orange Co. and freshman Michael Huffington of Santa Barbara, both of whom plan to run for the GOP nomination for the U.S. Senate next June...

- **CA State Senate** - 13 of the 20 even numbered State Senate seats that are up next year are now occupied by Demos. Of the 4 GOP members up next year (Maddy, Hurtt, Craven & Wyman) all plan to seek reelection, according to sources. And Maurice Johannessen(R) who is not yet elected, but is the favorite in the Nov. 2nd runoff in the 4th S.D., undoubtedly will run in 1994. There is a vacancy in the 40th S.D., but Demo Assemblyman Steve Peace is expected to hold this seat for the Demos and will run again in 1994. The 20th member facing voters next year is Quentin Kopp, the independent from San Francisco...

...Of the 13 Demos, Senate Pres. David Roberti and Sen. Art Torres are both aiming for higher office --- Roberti for Treasurer and Torres for Insurance Comm. A third Demo, Gary Hart of Santa Barbara, is retiring from public life. And it has been reported that Sen. Robert Presley of Riverside is in line for the vacant Bd. of Equalization job in Northern Calif. If he is appointed by Gov. Wilson, he would resign and it is very likely his seat would end up in GOP hands...

...That brings us to Ralph Dills and Herschel Rosenthal. Both Demos have had long careers in the legislature and both got mashed in the reapportionment process --- Dills worse than Rosenthal. Few source know for sure what these lawmakers plan, but of the two, it's more likely that Dills will run again. And finally there is Diane Watson, who has a district she could run for, but is hoping for an overseas State Department job instead. We'll keep you posted...

CALPEEK'S ROSENGARTEN AT LINCOLN CLUB.

CALPEEK publisher Dick Rosengarten will address members of the San Gabriel Valley chapter of the Lincoln Club of CA, 7:30 a.m. breakfast, Oct. 15, Industry Hills Sheraton, City of Industry. RSVPs to Natalie Blanning at (818)919-7497. Rosengarten will preview the top 1994 races, as well as give his predictions on the Nov. 2nd special election...

BOSKIN TO DISCUSS U.S. ECONOMICS & CLINTON.

The former chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, Michael Boskin, will address members of the Commonwealth Club of CA, 11:45 a.m., Oct. 15, Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Palace Hotel, S.F. Boskin's topic: Pres. Clinton's economic program. For info, (415)597-6705...

DLC SCHEDULES CALIF. CONFERENCE ON OCT. 23rd.

The Democratic Leadership Council will hold a one day Calif. conference, concentrating on issues relating to the Golden State, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 23, at CAL-START in Burbank (Hollywood Way & Empire Ave., near the Burbank Airport). Luncheon & keynote speaker will be OMB Director Leon Panetta. For info, (310)858-5794...

L.A. CO. COMM. ON DISABILITIES HOSTS AWARDS.

The L.A. County Commission on Disabilities will hold its 2nd annual Access Awards Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Oct. 27, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, L.A. For info, call Frances Kidd at (310)559-9334...

11th S.D. UPDATE: DEMOS TRY TO STOP CAMPBELL.

With just under a month to go before the Nov. 2nd special election to replace Becky Morgan(R) in the State Senate's 11th District, the Demo strategy is to stop former Congressman Tom Campbell(R) from winning outright in the primary and thus to force a Dec. 28th runoff...

...Most Bay Area sources think it is unlikely that the leading Demo in this special, business writer/journalist Hal Plotkin, can actually defeat Campbell in a runoff. However, forcing Campbell into a Dec. 28th runoff could help to *tie up GOP resources*, thus taking some pressure off Demo Assemblyman Steve Peace, who is the frontrunner in the 40th S.D. special in San Diego County to replace the retired Wadie Deddah(D). Republicans have their fingers crossed in hopes that their candidate, Joe Ghougassian, can pull an upset. The 40th S.D. special takes place at the same time as the 11th S.D. special...

...Plotkin, who has gotten a number of key endorsements from well-known area Demos, most recently got the near unanimous endorsement of the CA Demo Party. That's important in an underfunded operation because the party can pump out printed material at a lower postage cost than the campaign itself. Sources say the CDP will do a VBM (vote by mail) program and will include Plotkin on a CDP slate. Plotkin also got another break recently when he won an endorsement from Silicon Valley businessman John Rehfeld, CEO of Etak, Inc. Rehfeld was a member of Campbell's 1992 U.S. Senate finance cmt. This endorsement may not hurt Campbell, but it may raise an eyebrow or two...

...In the meantime, Campbell is on radio and there are few signs of campaign activity by Campbell's chief Republican rival, conservative businessman Virgil McVicker of San Jose. In order for the Demos to force a runoff, McVicker has to start putting something together because Plotkin by himself won't be enough to stop Campbell. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK's ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

● **Tort Reform Initiative in 1994 - CALPEEK** sources say that major elements in the Calif. business community are now at work drafting an initiative aimed at tort reform. One element of this proposed 1994 initiative would be a cap on attorney's contingency fees (probably on a sliding scale). Sources also confirm that the initiative campaign team will probably be headed by consultant David Townsend and his Sacto firm...

● **Orange Co. Demos For NAFTA** - In a mild rebuke to a number of Statewide anti-NAFTA Demos, including both U.S. Senators DiFi and BB, plus wantabe gubernatorial types Brown & Garamendi, as well as to CDP chair Bill Press, a group of about 20 prominent Demos from Orange Co. warned in an open letter that fears of lost jobs because of NAFTA are *without evidence* and are based on *hysteria*. The letter also notes that a CSFU study shows that NAFTA will create 10,000 new jobs in O.C. over the next few years. Among those who signed the letter were former CDP chair Dick O'Neill, former O.C. Demo Party chair Howard Adler, PA exec Fred Droz and DLC exec Bill Podlich...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Renee Brouillette leaves her post as executive director of CA Attorneys for Criminal Justice to become Admin. Officer to newly appointed Federal Public Defender Maria E. Stratton...

● Corporate securities attorney Gary Mendoza has been named CA Commissioner of Corporations by Gov. Pete Wilson. Senate confirmation is required...

● A sad note: Patricia Ann Mount, longtime chief deputy to L.A. Council President John Ferraro, died of a heart attack on Sept. 13. She was 48. R.I.P...

● Media consultant Don Ringe (Ringe Media, Inc.) has opened a Calif. office at 44 Montgomery St., Ste. 1710, San Francisco, CA 94104. Phone is (415)981-4812...